

Petersburg National Battlefield

2012 Calendar of Events Updated 8/23/12

Note: Schedule is subject to change please call to confirm details

Digging the Dimmock Line @ Stop 3

Date: Saturday & Sunday, August 11-12, 2012
Time: 9:00am-5:00pm (Saturday) & 9:00am-12:00 Noon (Sunday)
Location: Eastern Front Tour Stop #3
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney (804) 732-3531 x222

Join a group of living historians on August 11-12, 2012 as they portray the Confederate soldiers and enslaved men who built the initial line of Confederate earthworks at Petersburg. Petersburg National Battlefield preserves miles of earthworks dug during the American Civil War; but not all of these earthworks were dug between June 1864 and April 1865. In the summer of 1862, Captain Charles Dimmock, a Confederate engineer descended upon Petersburg with instructions to complete earthen defenses around the city for its protection. Slaves and soldiers started to build what is called the "Dimmock Line" in 1862 and work continued with slave and free black labor until early 1864.

Burial Practices of the Civil War

Date: Saturday, August 18 2012
Time: 1:00pm
Location: Eastern Front visitor center auditorium
Contact: Elizabeth Dinger (804) 732-3531 x208

Learn about the differences and similarities in military burials between the two sides.

148th Anniversary of the battles for Weldon Railroad

Date: Sunday, August 19, 2012
Time: 11:00am & 3:00pm
Location: Western Front Tour Stop #3 – Ft. Wadsworth
Contact: Tracy Chernault (804) 469-4093

In August of 1864 Union forces attempted to sever the Weldon Railroad. Join a ranger to learn about the struggle that raged for four days along the tracks outside of Petersburg and then shifted further south to Reams Station for one more day of desperate fighting.

Skywatch: Learning About the Constellations with the Richmond Astronomical Society

Date: Saturday, August 25, 2012
Time: Sunset
Location: General Grant's Headquarters Unit
Contact: Leslie McClammy

Observe the skies over Southside Virginia using some high powered telescopes provided by members of the Richmond Astronomical Society. The members will educate visitors about the stars and planets in the historic setting of where General Grant made his headquarters during the Siege of Petersburg.

SEPTEMBER

Meet General and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant

Date: Saturday, September 1, 2012
Time: 11:00 & 3:00
Location: General Grant's Headquarters Unit
Contact: Ann Blumenschine

Join living historians Larry and Constance Clowers as they bring General and Mrs. Grant to life. The 11 am program is "Meet General and Mrs. Grant" and at 3 pm see Mrs. Grant's 19th Century Fashions.

OCTOBER

Hard Liquor and Women

Date: Saturday, October 13, 2012
Time: 10:30am, 1:30pm, & 2:30pm
Location: Farmer's Market parking lot
Contact: Randolph Watkins (804) 732-3531 x205

A one hour walking tour and living history event will commence from the Farmer's Market parking lot in Old Towne Petersburg. "Hard Liquor and Women" will follow an 1864 newspaper reporter as he walks the streets of Old Towne Petersburg making observations and conducting interviews to see how Confederate soldiers pass their scarce leisure time away from the boredom, noise and danger of the City's defense lines. Accompany the reporter as the side of the Siege of Petersburg rarely written about. The Farmer's Market is located at 9 E. Old Street in Petersburg. This walking tour is free and requires no registration. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended and participants are encouraged to bring a bottle of water.

Civil War Archeology

Date: Saturday, October 20, 2012
Time: 10:00am – 12:00 Noon & 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Location: Eastern Front Tour Stop #3
Contact: Grant Gates (804) 732-3531 x202

In celebration of National Archeology Month, a “hands-on” program exploring the work and impact of uncovering our history will give visitors a chance to try their hand at being an archeologist. Meeting at the field lab at Tour Stop #3 of the Eastern Front visitors will have the chance to “dig”, clean, and identify “artifacts” relating to the Siege of Petersburg. The public will also have the opportunity to look at other tools and technologies present-day archeologists use in their work.

Artillery Demonstrations

Date: Sunday, October 28, 2012
Time: 1:30pm – 4:30pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Randolph Watkins (804) 732-3531 x205

Learn about what it takes to fire Civil War artillery and how it was used here at the siege. There will a scheduled firing at 1:30 and 4:30 the rest of the firings will be conducted as audiences gather.

NOVEMBER

Poplar Grove National Cemetery 7th Annual Luminary

Date: Saturday, November 10, 2012
Time: 5:30pm – 8:00pm
Location: Meet at designated parking lot for Free shuttle to Cemetery (TBD)
Contact: Elizabeth Dinger (804) 732-3531 x208

Petersburg National Battlefield will honor veterans past and present by literally shedding light on the gravesites of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to defend their country. The Luminary will take place at Poplar Grove National Cemetery which is off of Vaughan Road in Dinwiddie County. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 8:00 p.m. Parking for the event will be off site and free shuttle buses will transport visitors to and from the cemetery. There will be no parking allowed at Poplar Grove National Cemetery.

The evening program at Poplar Grove National Cemetery includes each of the 6000 graves being marked with a luminary candle, bagpipe music, and selected stories of those who laid down their lives for their beliefs. Visitors are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes as the cemetery ground is uneven. Flashlights are also recommended to avoid stepping on tree roots.

Thanksgiving in the Trenches

Date: Saturday, November 17, 2012
Time: 5:30pm, 6:45pm, & 8:00pm
Location: Eastern Front Tour Stop #3
Contact: Randolph Watkins (804) 732-3531 x205

Visit Petersburg National Battlefield to witness how soldiers, Union and Confederate, observed the Thanksgiving season. Guided lantern tours will take place at tour stop #3 of the Eastern Front Unit. Each tour will consist of five stops where different scenes will play out depicting moments of peace to moments of violence. The event is free of charge.

Reservations are required to participate in this tour. To make a reservation, please call (804) 732-3531 ext. 205. Reservations can also be requested by e-mailing the event coordinator at Randolph_Watkins@nps.gov. Please make sure to leave your name, telephone number, and/or e-mail address as confirmation will be made by phone or e-mail. Register early as there is a limit of 30 people per tour. Registration deadline is noon on November 15, 2012.

Artillery Demonstrations

Date: Sunday, November 18, 2012
Time: 1:00pm – 4:30pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Randolph Watkins (804) 732-3531 x205

Learn about what it takes to fire Civil War artillery and how it was used here at the siege. There will a scheduled firing at 1:30 and 4:30 the rest of the firings will be conducted as audiences gather.

DECEMBER

Artillery Demonstrations

Date: Sunday, December 30, 2012
Time: 1:00pm – 4:30pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Randolph Watkins (804) 732-3531 x205

Learn about what it takes to fire Civil War artillery and how it was used here at the siege. There will a scheduled firing at 1:30 and 4:30 the rest of the firings will be conducted as audiences gather.